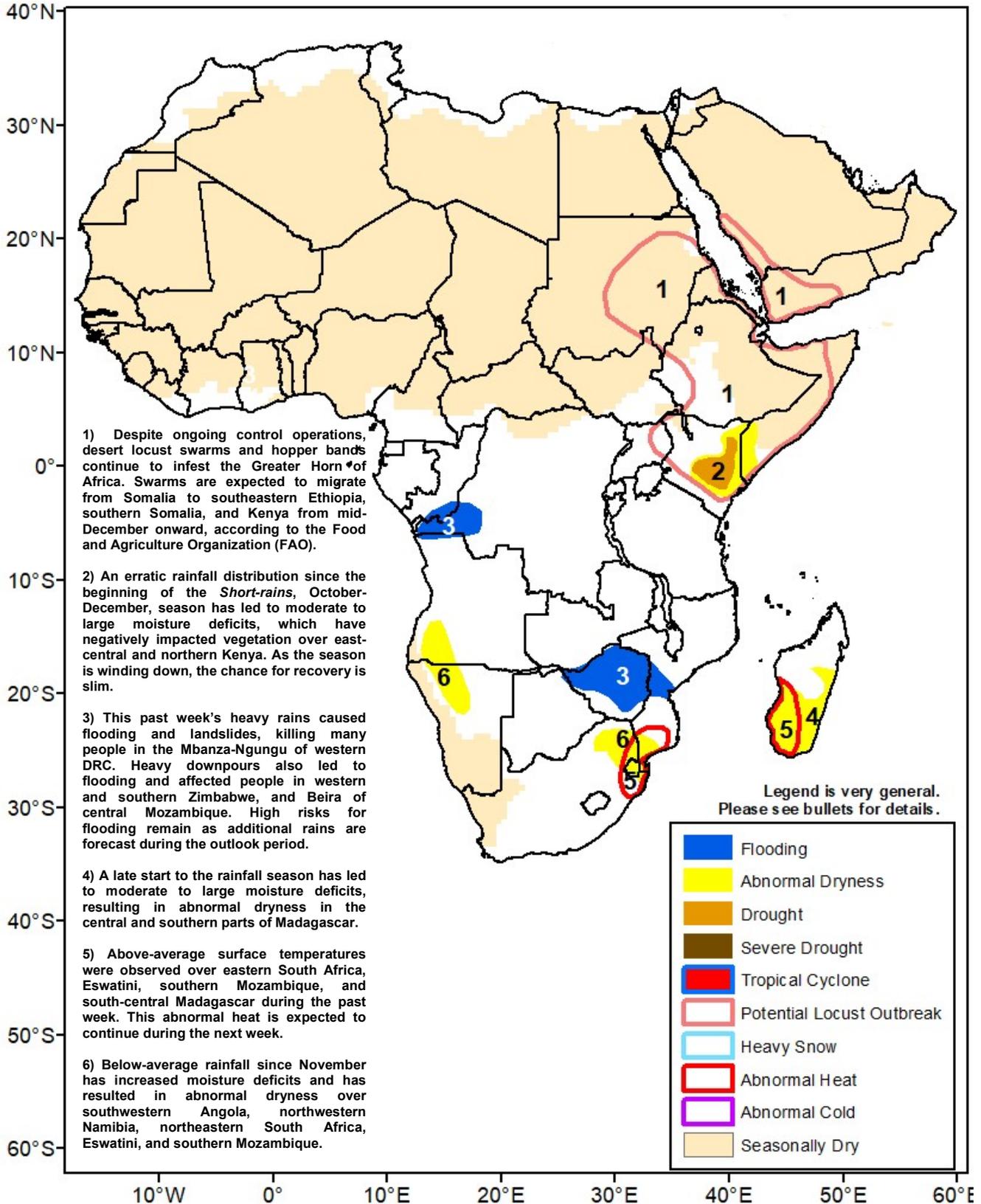




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook December 10 – 16, 2020

- Abnormal dryness has settled in across parts of southern Africa due to poor rains during November.



The *Short-rains*, October-December rainfall season is coming to an end in the Horn of Africa.

During early December, a substantial decrease in rainfall was observed over eastern Africa. While portions of western Ethiopia, southern Uganda, southern Kenya, and northern Tanzania continued to receive locally moderate to heavy accumulation, much of the sub-region experienced suppressed and below-average rainfall (Figure 1). The decrease in rainfall over the recent weeks may mark an end to the *Short-rains* season. In contrast, favorable and widespread moderate to heavy rains were recorded, farther west and south, over central Africa. Heavy rains triggered flooding and landslides over the Mbanza Ngungu City of the Kongo Central Province of western Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), killing many people, according to media reports.

Since the beginning of October, insufficient seasonal rainfall has been received over east-central Kenya and parts of southern Ethiopia and southern Somalia despite an increase in rainfall over some areas during November. This erratic distribution in rainfall has already negatively impacted vegetation on the ground as depicted by various land surface indices, including the vegetation health and normalized difference vegetation indices. Drought conditions are posted over east-central and northern parts of Kenya, where unfavorable vegetation status was observed.

For next week, suppressed and dry conditions are to continue over much of eastern Africa. This weather pattern is likely to sustain drought in the region. However, light to locally moderate rains are possible in eastern Kenya and northern Tanzania.

Abnormal dryness has settled in across the western and eastern parts of southern Africa.

During the past thirty days, below-average rainfall was registered over the western and eastern portions of southern Africa. Moderate to large (25-100 mm) rainfall deficits remained over southwestern Angola and northeastern South Africa, Eswatini, southern Mozambique, and southern Madagascar (Figure 2). The persisting deficits has led to abnormal dryness, which was attributable to stagnant low-level atmospheric divergence during November. Conversely, low-level convergence and well above-average rainfall spread over southern DRC, eastern Angola, Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and central Mozambique. During the past week, heavy rains fell over the region, resulting in flooding over the Victoria Falls area and Chingwizi, Mwenezi in the Masvingo Province of Zimbabwe, and Beira, Sofala of central Mozambique, according to reports. Over Madagascar, heavy rains were recorded over the central highlands, which helped ease dryness over the Island.

This past week, above-average maximum temperature was again recorded over northeastern South Africa, Eswatini, southern Mozambique, southern Malawi, parts of northern Mozambique, and central Madagascar. The abnormal heat over the past few weeks may have contributed to further degradation in vegetation conditions over localized areas of northeastern South Africa, Eswatini, and southern Madagascar as indicated by recent vegetation products.

For next week, heavy rains are forecast over southern DRC, Zambia, northern Zimbabwe, Malawi, northern Mozambique, and central Madagascar, which maintain high flood risks over many local areas of the region. Heavy rains are possible in eastern South Africa and Lesotho, while limited and reduced rains are expected elsewhere.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.

